

R 291857Z JUN 07 ZUI ASN-A00180000027
FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-00//
TO COMLANTAREA COGARD PORTSMOUTH VA
COMPACAREA COGARD ALAMEDA CA
CCGDEIGHT NEW ORLEANS LA
CCGDELEVEN ALAMEDA CA
CCGDFIVE PORTSMOUTH VA
CCGDFOURTEEN HONOLULU HI
CCGDNINE CLEVELAND OH
CCGDONE BOSTON MA
CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FL
CCGDSEVENTEEN JUNEAU AK
CCGDTHIRTEEN SEATTLE WA
COMCOGARD SECTOR ANCHORAGE AK
COMCOGARD SECTOR BALTIMORE MD
COMCOGARD SECTOR BOSTON MA
COMCOGARD SECTOR BUFFALO NY
COMCOGARD SECTOR CHARLESTON SC
COMCOGARD SECTOR CORPUS CHRISTI TX
COMCOGARD SECTOR DELAWARE BAY PA
COMCOGARD SECTOR DETROIT MI
COMCOGARD SECTOR GUAM
COMCOGARD SECTOR HAMPTON ROADS VA
COMCOGARD SECTOR HONOLULU HI
COMCOGARD SECTOR HOUSTON GALVESTON TX
COMCOGARD SECTOR JACKSONVILLE FL
COMCOGARD SECTOR JUNEAU AK
COMCOGARD SECTOR KEY WEST FL
COMCOGARD SECTOR LAKE MICHIGAN WI
COMCOGARD SECTOR LONG ISLAND SOUND NEW HAVEN CT COMCOGARD
SECTOR LOS ANGELES LONG BEACH CA COMCOGARD SECTOR LOWER
MISSISSIPPI RIVER MEMPHIS TN COMCOGARD SECTOR MIAMI FL COMCOGARD
SECTOR MOBILE AL COMCOGARD SECTOR NEW ORLEANS LA COMCOGARD
SECTOR NEW YORK NY COMCOGARD SECTOR NORTH CAROLINA ATLANTIC
BEACH NC COMCOGARD SECTOR NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND ME COMCOGARD
SECTOR OHIO VALLEY LOUISVILLE KY COMCOGARD SECTOR PORTLAND OR
COMCOGARD SECTOR SAN DIEGO CA COMCOGARD SECTOR SAN FRANCISCO CA
COMCOGARD SECTOR SAN JUAN PR COMCOGARD SECTOR SAULT STE MARIE MI
COMCOGARD SECTOR SEATTLE WA COMCOGARD SECTOR SOUTHEASTERN NEW
ENGLAND MA COMCOGARD SECTOR ST PETERSBURG FL COMCOGARD SECTOR
UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER ST LOUIS MO INFO COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON
DC//01/09/092/094/3/38/37/3R/3P/3PC/3PS/3PW/5/8//

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UNCLAS //N16601//

SUBJ: MARITIME SAFETY – MULTIPLE BENEFITS OF A MULTIMISSIION COAST
GUARD

(A) COMMANDANTS INTENT-SITREP 3 ON 25 MAY 07 1. YOU MAY HAVE SEEN AN
ARTICLE RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN AN INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING TRADE
MAGAZINE TRADEWINDS REPORTING POTENTIAL LEGISLATION BEING
CONSIDERED TO TRANSFER THE MARITIME SAFETY DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES
OF THE COAST GUARD TO A NEW FEDERAL AGENCY IN ANOTHER DEPARTMENT.

NO LEGISLATION HAS BEEN INTRODUCED BY CONGRESS. HOWEVER, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU UNDERSTAND WHERE I STAND ON ANY SUCH PROPOSAL. THIS IS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COAST GUARD OR THE NATION. I AM COMMITTED TO PRESERVING OUR LONGSTANDING ROLE AS THE WORLD'S LEADER IN MARITIME SAFETY AND AM WORKING WITH CONGRESS TO ENSURE WE MAINTAIN OUR CURRENT MARITIME SAFETY DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES. ONE OF OUR GREATEST STRENGTHS IS OUR MULTIMISSION CHARACTER WHICH PROVIDES THE BEST VALUE TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. WHILE I'M CONFIDENT OTHERS WILL SEE IT THIS WAY AS WELL, I ALSO REALIZE THAT WE NEED TO BE OPEN TO CRITIQUES OF THE SERVICE THAT WE PROVIDE TO THE NATION AND OUR PROFESSIONAL MARINERS.

2. I RECENTLY MET WITH A GROUP OF MARITIME INDUSTRY LEADERS TO DISCUSS THESE CONCERNS. SPECIFICALLY, MARITIME INDUSTRY LEADERS AND ASSOCIATIONS HAVE COMMENTED ABOUT THE PROFESSIONALISM AND EXPERTISE OF OUR MARINE INSPECTORS AND BOARDING TEAMS, ACCESS TO COAST GUARD LEADERSHIP IN OUR PORTS, AND A RIGID ADHERANCE TO STRICT PRACTICES AND PROTOCOLS WHEN ALTERNATIVE MEANS FOR COMPLIANCE MAY PROVE MORE BENEFICIAL WITHIN EXISTING AUTHORITIES. AS PROFESSIONAL MARINERS AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS, IT IS OUR DUTY TO CONSIDER THIS FEEDBACK OBJECTIVELY AS WE CONTINUALLY STRIVE TO BALANCE STRONG ENFORCEMENT OF OUR REGULATORY DUTIES WITH WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH OUR MARITIME INDUSTRY PARTNERS TO FACILITATE THE SAFE, SECURE AND EFFICIENT FLOW OF COMMERCE.

3. I WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT DECISION MAKERS AND NATIONAL LEADERS UNDERSTAND THE VALUE THE COAST GUARD BRINGS TO MARITIME SAFETY AND THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY TO RETAIN THESE DUTIES WITHIN THE COAST GUARD. AS COAST GUARD LEADERS, I NEED YOU TO CONTINUE TO ACTIVELY SEEK ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE INDUSTRY LEADERS ON THESE AND OTHER ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THEM. IN THE CONTEXT OF EXPLAINING OUR ONGOING EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE THE COAST GUARD AND THE TRUE VALUE OF OUR ENTIRE MISSION SET, BE ATTENTIVE TO INDUSTRY'S CONCERNS. OUR DECISIONS AND ACTIONS HAVE DIRECT IMPACTS ON THEIR BUSINESSES AND THEIR WORKFORCE. THE MARITIME TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IS THE ENGINE THAT DRIVES OUR NATION'S ECONOMY. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT BOUND TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH EVERY CONCERN EXPRESSED BY OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS, WE SHOULD ALWAYS BE INFORMED BY THEM. IN SOME INSTANCES, MINOR CHANGES IN THE WAY WE APPROACH OUR DUTIES, WHICH IN NO WAY COMPROMISE OUR SAFETY, SECURITY, OR STEWARDSHIP DUTIES, CAN HAVE SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS IN GENERATING GOODWILL WHILE REINFORCING PARTNERSHIPS THAT ARE SO KEY TO ACHIEVING OUR MUTUAL OBJECTIVES.

4. YOUR ACTIVE OUTREACH IS A CRITICAL PART OF CG MISSION EXECUTION. KEEP THE DIALOGUE GOING AND SHARE YOUR BEST PRACTICES WITH EACH OTHER AND YOUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP. OUR SUCCESS AS AMERICA'S LIFESAVERS AND GUARDIANS DEPENDS UPON OUR ABILITY TO ENGAGE, LISTEN, AND ACT APPROPRIATELY.

AMERICA'S MARITIME TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPLEX IN THE WORLD. IT IS ALSO ONE OF THE SAFEST AND MOST EFFICIENT DUE TO THE DEDICATED EFFORTS OF EACH OF YOU IN CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR MARITIME INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT PARTNERS.

5. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.

6. ADM THAD ALLEN, COMMANDANT, SENDS.

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